

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 10-22 are pending in the present application; Claims 2, 4, 8, and 9 having been canceled, and Claims 1, 5, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 20 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, 8-24, and 26-37 are pending in the present application; Claims 7 and 25 having been canceled, and Claims 2, 5, 8, 11-14, 19, 20, 23, 26, 29-32, 34, 36, and 37 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 1-5, 8-12, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Katsuyama, et al. (U.S.P. 6,304,739), and Claims 6, 7, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuyama in view of Guidera (U.S.P. 6,241,147).

The drawings and specification was reviewed and minor errors of a typographical error have been changed. No new matter has been added.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 20 has been amended to change “rounded surfaces R” to “rounded surfaces.” Rounded surfaces is clear and definite.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 8-12, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Katsuyama, et al. (hereinafter Katsuyama). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the general features of Claims 2, 4, and 9, and these claims have been canceled. Note that not all limitations of these claims have been incorporated into Claim 1.

Claim 1 is directed to a container storage box for storage of a deformable container. According to Claim 1, the sidewall faces are configured to regulate a configuration of the deformable container, the container storage box comprises a plurality of sidewall faces, at least two opposing sidewall faces regulating the configuration of the container and fixing a position of the container. Further, Claim 1 recites a first and second pair of opposing sidewall faces which are not parallel to each other. Further, a gap between the first pair of said at least two opposing sidewall faces is gradually tapered, and also a gap between the second pair of said at least two opposing sidewall faces is also gradually tapered.

Katsuyama discloses in Figure 6 a receptacle is formed in the body 20 of an image forming apparatus. The receptacle 21 contains four sidewall faces, one of two opposing sidewall faces among them is not parallel to the other, and a gap between said two opposing sidewall faces is gradually tapered. However, as shown in Figure 6 of Katsuyama, there are two opposing sidewall faces which are parallel to each other and do not have a gap therebetween that is gradually tapered.

According to the present invention, there are two pairs of sidewall faces which are gradually tapered. Exemplary support for such a claim limitation is found in Figures 7A-7C. Moreover, the receptacle 21 shown in Figure 6 of Katsuyama is not a container storage box which is arranged to prevent deformation of a deformable container during storage, as in the present invention. Rather the receptacle 21 is a portion of the body of the image forming apparatus for receiving a toner container 1.

Accordingly, Katsuyama does not disclose each and every limitation in amended Claim 1 and therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

None of the secondary references disclose or suggest the above-described combination and do not render the above-described combination obvious. The dependent claims which depend from Claim 1 are patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 1 is patentable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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